

UCLA Faculty Association

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Monday, July 14, 2025

Straws in the Wind - Part 39

From the [Wall St. Journal](#): *The Trump administration's postponement of a summer meeting for a college-accreditation panel has set off alarm bells in an obscure but powerful corner of higher education. The panel is an 18-member board informally known as the accreditor of college accreditors. It recommends to the U.S. Education Department which agencies should be certified to accredit colleges. Without that approval, colleges aren't eligible for billions in federal funds...*

On June 5, the Education Department sent a memo to members of the accreditation-oversight panel postponing its semiannual meeting from July to October. Before October, the terms of six members of the panel will expire. Groups of six new members are appointed in staggered terms by the House, Senate and secretary of the Education Department...

Trump has called accreditation his "secret weapon" in his effort to remake higher education, which he and allies have portrayed as a hotbed of left-wing ideology that has given rise to antisemitism. Trump and other Republicans have long criticized the accreditation process, calling it a cartel that stifles competition and doesn't help police colleges and universities with poor student outcomes... In April, Trump signed an executive order to revamp accreditation, aiming to put more focus on campus intellectual diversity and student success...

Full story at <https://www.wsj.com/us-news/education/trump-college-accreditation-meeting-postponed-58dfa404>.



Posted by California Policy Issues at [3:15 AM](#) No comments:

Labels: [Columbia](#), [diversity](#), [politics](#)

Will Harvard Continue to Lead the Charge? - Part 32



From the [Wall St. Journal](#): *Harvard leaders have discussed creating a program that people briefed on the talks described as a center for conservative scholarship, possibly modeled on Stanford's Hoover Institution, as the school fights the Trump administration's accusations that it is too liberal.*

The idea has circulated at the university for several years but gained steam after pro-Palestinian protests began disrupting campus in late 2023. Harvard has discussed the effort with potential donors, people familiar with the matter said. The cost of creating such a center could run somewhere between \$500 million and \$1 billion, a person familiar with Harvard's thinking estimated.

A spokesman for Harvard said an initiative under discussion "will ensure exposure to the broadest ranges of perspectives on issues, and will not be partisan, but rather will model the use of evidence-based, rigorous logic and a willingness to engage with opposing views." He added that the school has been accelerating efforts to set up the initiative, which would "promote and support viewpoint diversity."

A 2024 survey by Harvard found that only one-third of the college's graduating class felt comfortable discussing controversial topics, and a 2023 survey by the student newspaper found that just 3% of faculty at Harvard College identified as politically conservative...

Full story at <https://www.wsj.com/us-news/education/harvard-conservative-scholarship-center-trump-attacks-a187242a>.

Posted by California Policy Issues at [3:05 AM](#) No comments:

Labels: [Harvard](#), [politics](#)

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UC Health Considering forming its own Pharmacy Benefits Manager



UC Health is apparently considering creating its own Pharmacy Benefit Manager, rather than use outside firms. From Item H6 at the Health Services Committee of the Regents (July 15) which reviews rising drug costs:

Opportunity: A Pharmacy-Led PBM Strategy for Self-Funded Plans

Pharmacy Benefit Managers (PBMs) act as intermediaries between drug manufacturers, payers, and pharmacies. While originally designed to streamline access and control costs, many PBMs today operate with limited transparency, retaining rebates and generating profits through spread pricing, a practice in which a pharmacy benefit manager (PBM) charges a health plan more for a drug than it reimburses the pharmacy, keeping the difference as profit. In response, UC Health may consider new opportunities itself in pharmacy benefit management, focusing first on the administration of pharmacy benefits for its self-funded employee health plan. A UC PBM strategy would allow the University to move away from third-party PBMs that often operate with opaque pricing structures, limited alignment to clinical value, and retention of rebate dollars that could otherwise be reinvested in care. A UC pharmacy-led PBM model offers the prospect of better transparency with upfront drug pricing (cost plus model), negotiation and retention of drug manufacturer rebates, with the value passed directly back to UC's self-funded health plan and members.

Ultimately, internalizing this function could empower the system to reinvest savings into patient care, benefit design, and high-impact therapeutic access. UC Health's pharmacy teams already manage complex drug regimens, high-cost specialty therapies, and population-level utilization strategies, making this an operationally feasible and mission-consistent next step. A UC-led PBM could represent not just a milestone in operational efficiency, but a model for how academic health systems can deliver equitable, transparent, and patient-centered benefit strategies at scale. UC Health will continue to confer with the University's health plan leadership and UC Health sites to determine the viability and future for such an offering.

Source: <https://regents.universityofcalifornia.edu/regmeet/july25/h6.pdf>. (p. 7)

Posted by California Policy Issues at [3:30 AM](#) No comments:

Labels: [health care](#), [UC](#), [UC Regents](#)

Straws in the Wind - Part 38

From the [Wall St. Journal](#): A conservative think tank with deep ties to the Trump administration has targeted Cornell University with a civil rights complaint, alleging the Ivy League school has used DEI practices that the group says are discriminatory in its faculty hiring and student scholarships. The complaint alleges that Cornell placed "an illegal identity-based ideology above equal opportunity and merit" that discriminated against job candidates and created a hostile environment for people who disagreed with that ideology...

A Cornell University spokesperson said the school's hiring policies focus on merit and prohibit discrimination. "The university will promptly review any complaints about past hiring practices and take appropriate action if our anti-discriminatory hiring policies were not followed," the spokesperson said.

The complaint cites a 2020 email about conversations among faculty and administrators discussing a plan to make "our hoped-for diversity hire." The email says: "What we should be doing is inviting one person whom we have identified as being somebody that we would like to join our department and not have that person in competition with others." A second email included in the complaint, dated 2022, says one candidate was dropped from further consideration "because their D&I statement was so seriously and unambiguously weak that we could not imagine them being a finalist." ...

Full story at <https://www.wsj.com/us-news/education/cornell-civil-rights-dei-america-first-policy-institute-178f7be4>.



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Contributors

- [California Policy Issues](#)
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- [UCLA Faculty Association](#)

From [WOSU](#): The new state law banning diversity, equity, and inclusion at Ohio public universities went into effect on June 27. That same afternoon, Ohio State University told several alumni groups that their mission statements had been changed to comply with that law. Craig Little, director of alumni engagement at Ohio State's Alumni Association, to Asian & Pacific Islander Alumni Society, emailed the group that its mission statement had already been changed, from "Our mission is to promote the interests of alumni who identify as Asian & Pacific Islander," to "Our mission is to promote the interests of all alumni." This change has sparked frustration in OSU alumni organizations.

Responding to Little's email, organization president Justin Liu, wrote "I am writing in absolute disbelief and deep frustration regarding this decision to unilaterally alter the mission statement of the Asian and Pacific Islander Alumni Society without consultation, discussion, even basic courtesy."

"Let's be perfectly clear: stripping language that explicitly affirms our mission to serve Asian and Pacific Island identifying alumni is not a harmless "compliance" edit. It is an erasure - plain and simple," Liu's response continues. The university said that some changes to try to comply with the Advance Ohio Higher Education Act may have been done "prematurely" and that they are currently reviewing the changes...

Full story at <https://www.wosu.org/politics-government/2025-07-01/ohio-state-changes-alumni-groups-mission-statements-to-comply-with-new-state-law>.

Posted by California Policy Issues at [3:20 AM](#) No comments: 

Labels: [Cornell](#), [diversity](#), [politics](#)

Saturday, July 12, 2025

Tuition Increases on Regents Menu Next Week



The Regents will discuss - not vote on - options for tuition increases at their upcoming meeting on July 16 at UCLA. From the [San Francisco Chronicle](#):

...UC's finance experts characterize next week's presentation as something that "at a future meeting the Regents may be asked to consider." But they are offering concrete scenarios for renewing the five-year tuition plan, including these:

- Raising annual tuition for each cohort by up to 7% instead of the current 5% maximum.
- Returning 35% of the new money to financial aid, instead of the current 45%.
- Increasing tuition by a higher rate above inflation than the current maximum, which is 2% above inflation.

The regents approved the current multiyear tuition plan in 2021, and were expected to renew it every five years. The program took effect in fall 2022...

Full story at <https://www.sfchronicle.com/california/article/uc-tuition-increase-scenarios-20759843.php>.

Regents Item B2 which reviews the tuition options is at:

<https://regents.universityofcalifornia.edu/regmeet/july25/b2.pdf>.

Posted by California Policy Issues at [3:30 AM](#) No comments: 

Labels: [UC Regents](#)

Straws in the Wind - Part 37

From [Tennessee Lookout](#): Federal grant cuts to research at Vanderbilt University Medical Center could include funding for programs meant to improve diversity in medical research faculty and research participants, according to data released by the White House's Department of Government Efficiency. Vanderbilt University Medical Center — a medical system giant in the southeast that handles more than 3.5 million patient visits annually — expects to lay off 650 employees due to grant and funding cuts made by the Trump Administration, the organization announced in a statement on June 20. Staffing cuts will be focused in research, administrative and support roles.

The health care system plans to reduce its operating costs by \$300 million "in response to the impact of budgetary actions in Washington, D.C. related to government-sponsored research and patient care," VUMC stated. VUMC declined to provide more specific information on the research projects and grants impacted by federal cuts, but DOGE's database indicates funding

retractions for at least two multi-year VUMC initiatives receiving support from the National Institutes of Health. The Vanderbilt Faculty Institutional Recruitment for Sustainable Transformation (Vanderbilt FIRST) program aims to recruit more women and people of minority racial or ethnic groups to the faculty...

Full story

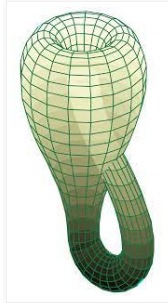
at <https://tennesseelookout.com/2025/06/30/vanderbilt-university-medical-center-grant-cuts-may-include-faculty-research-diversity-initiatives/>.



Posted by California Policy Issues at [3:20 AM](#) No comments: 

Labels: [diversity](#), [politics](#), [Vanderbilt U](#)

Klein v. Bernardo and Regents



The long-delayed case of Gordon Klein vs. former Anderson dean Bernardo and the UC Regents has been unfolding in a Santa Monica courtroom this past week. (In case you are wondering, the strange shape you see is a Klein bottle - Google it - which is surely illustrative of something.)

The case goes back to the George Floyd demonstrations and all of that in May 2020. As they say, the wheels of justice grind slowly. Klein, an instructor in the Anderson School, received an email that seemed to ask that Black students receive preferential grading. Klein could have responded that he would grade according to UCLA standards, or something to that effect. But he responded in a way that some students found upsetting, leading to a kind of suspension/cancellation which was later rescinded.

He contends in his lawsuit that the actions in response to these events taken by the School damaged his reputation as a consultant.

As it plays out in the court, the [Daily Bruin](#) has been summarizing each day's testimony which seems to have consisted of Klein making his case concerning the adverse effect on him emotionally and financially, and the lawyers for the dean and the Regents digging up past dirt on Klein. This trial is before a judge, not a jury. What the judge will do with the testimony is anyone's guess. You can read the blow-by-blow account at:

<https://dailybruin.com/category/breaking/klein-trial-coverage>.

Posted by California Policy Issues at [3:05 AM](#) No comments: 

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